

ISU Speed Skating Hub 2021

Questions and Answers

What and when is the Speed Skating Hub?

The Speed Skating Hub 2021 will take place at the Thialf Stadium in Heerenveen (NED) and will start on January 16 with the ISU European Speed Skating Championships, followed by the ISU World Cup Speed Skating 1 on January 22, ISU World Cup Speed Skating 2 on January 29 and will finish with the ISU World Speed Skating Championships on February 11, 2021.

Within the framework of these 2020/21 ISU Events a "Competition Bubble" (CB) will be created to create a safe environment for all, including Skaters, team staff, Officials, the Organizing Committee and all other persons involved in the Speed Skating Hub. All measures and rules set out in the "[Health Regulations](#)" represent measures and rules that complement those set out in the ISU's document titled "[Guidelines for ISU Events during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)" ("ISU Guidelines"). These regulations exclusively and specifically apply to the ISU Speed Skating Hub 2021 which will be held Heerenveen (NED).

What is the Competition Bubble?

The purpose of the Competition Bubble is to create a safe environment for all with the aim to minimize the risk of Skaters and Team staff in either being infected or infecting other people directly or indirectly and at restricting the number of persons identified as close contacts in the event of infection. The clear common goals are: to safeguard the health of Skaters, Team personnel and other people involved in the ISU Events and to guarantee that the events can go ahead.

The Competition Bubble consists of 2 levels:

- Level 1: all Skaters (including substitutes) ("Skaters") for the Teams participating in the ISU Events ("Team(s)") who have been officially registered for the ISU Events, along with the Team personnel designated by the Teams ("Personnel") - jointly designated as "Skaters and Personnel" or "Level 1".
- Level 2: all persons who do not belong to a skating team but work in the ISU Events, play an important role in its organization and are in close or regular contact with the ISU Events Skaters and/or Team personnel ("Level 2"). ISU will draw up a list of people classified as Level 2, including but not limited to, ISU Officials, competition management staff, competition medical staff, Judges, timing personnel, ice staff and neutral organizing/support staff, banner placers, block layers, security officers (in areas where the teams pass through), TV Production personnel in the competition and press areas with Skaters presence, tracking system personnel, Anti-Doping chaperones and personnel, radio/telecoms personnel (interacting with the teams), stewards and announcers. Strict measures and rules, possibly similar to those established for Level 1, shall also be applied to them.
- Level 3: not considered part of the Competition Bubble, this level is for other people involved in the organization of the ISU Events who may also come into contact with people in the Competition Bubble, but not close/regular contact, including KNSB office, House of Sports office, photographers and members of the media who interview skaters in the mixed zone. Specific measures and protocols shall be established for all these people, including but not limited to: a PCR test in the 3 days preceding their arrival on site, supplementary tests during the ISU Events, filling in the active screening questionnaire, limited presence in the various areas/spaces on site and limited interaction with third parties.

For further information on the Competition Bubble, please refer to the "[Health Regulations](#)" document.

Where can I find information on the format of each Competition?

Information regarding each Event can be found in the relevant Announcement:

[ISU European Speed Skating Championships](#)

[ISU World Cup Speed Skating 1](#)

[ISU World Cup Speed Skating 2](#)

ISU World Speed Skating Championships (TBC)

Will there be public allowed in Thialf?

For health and safety purposes there are no spectators in the stands.

How can the public watch the Events within the Hub?

Viewers will be able to watch the ISU Speed Skating competitions that will take place within the hub either via their national broadcaster / channel and for countries where there are no broadcasters, the ISU will offer a live stream on the [Skating ISU YouTube Channel](#).

All the information is available in the [Where to Watch](#) which will be updated after each competition.

What happens if someone gets tested positive for COVID-19?

They will remain in quarantine for a minimum of 5 days and up to 10 days followed by a PCR-test. Quarantine will take place at Van der Valk Leeuwarden hotel which includes room service and the LOC will make the necessary arrangement if the person has to change hotels.

Will the Teams be separated at the hotel and within the Venue?

No, once inside the Competition Bubble the Teams will be able to access the same areas, However it is recommended that the Teams keep their interaction with others within the Competition Bubble to the strict minimum / necessary.

Can an athlete compete without the presence of supporting staff (Team Leader, Team Doctor etc)?

Yes, however a remote Team Doctor must be designated to act as the person responsible for any COVID-19 matters and must be available at all times.

How will outdoor cycling/running/walking be organized?

Any person with Level 1, must sign out and back in whenever they go out for outdoor cycling, running or a short walk. However it is strictly forbidden to engage contact with any other than Level 1 persons. Any level 1 person who does not follow the strict protocol and measures will be excluded from the Competition Bubble.

Can a Skater or Team staff with a positive COVID-19 test result return into the Competition Bubble after the required quarantine period or after a negative test?

From an infectious point of view, if the infected individual has quarantined themselves for a minimum of 5 days and up to 10 days (in accordance with Dutch governmental measures) followed by two negative tests, then the person is not infectious anymore and can re-enter the Competition Bubble. However, the general physical health of the Skater must also be considered. A responsible physician shall ensure that the Skater concerned is fit to compete at that high level. As it is impossible to know how significant the illness was from a clinical point of view, it therefore cannot be predicted from a physical point of view if the return will be able to compete.

Will there be a World Cup Ranking?

World Cup points will be awarded as per the [ISU Communication 2360](#) and the World Cup ranking for each competition category will be determined by the number of points the Skaters (or National Teams) accumulate during the season. Prize money will be awarded for each individual competition and for the final classification at the end of the season. For each competition, prize money is awarded to the top 3 Skaters of Division A and the top 3 Teams in the Team competitions. For the final World Cup ranking, prize money is awarded to the top 10 Skaters in each of the individual distance categories (including Mass Start competitions), and to the top 5 ranked Teams in the Team competitions.